

REMARKS1. The Amendments and the Support Therefor

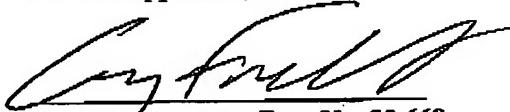
Claims 4, 6, 16, and 20 are amended to eliminate any question as to whether the claims meet the requirements of 35 USC §112(2). We submit that the claims met all requirements of 35 USC §112(2) even without the amendments, owing to the precepts noted in MPEP 2173.05(e) ("Lack of Antecedent Basis"):

[T]he failure to provide explicit antecedent basis for terms does not always render a claim indefinite. If the scope of a claim would be reasonably ascertainable by those skilled in the art, then the claim is not indefinite. *Ex parte Porter*, 25 USPQ2d 1144, 1145 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1992) ("controlled stream of fluid" provided reasonable antecedent basis for "the controlled fluid").

Here, the meanings of all claims (both before amendment and thereafter) were/are readily ascertainable by an ordinarily skilled artisan within a reasonable degree of certainty (MPEP 2173.02), and thus the requirements of 35 USC §112(2) were/are met. The amendments are nonetheless made because they do not substantively affect the claims. In any event, all claims should now be in condition for allowance.

If any questions regarding the application arise, please contact the undersigned attorney. Telephone calls related to this application are welcomed and encouraged. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments relating to this application to deposit account number 18-2055.

For the Applicant,



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